



## *Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter*

Volume 8, Issue #9

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

11 July 2013

### **Pest Patrol Hotline**

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

### **News from Above the Lakes**

No news to report this week. Please send your insect comments to me by Wednesday for inclusion here.

### **News from Below the Lakes**

Jonathan Croft, county agent in Orangeburg County, reported that the rain has really dampened field activity, so, even if you have problems with insects, you can't do anything about it, unless you have a friend that is an aerial applicator. Most of those guys have full plates for work right now, and you have to book them sometime in the future...can't cover all the need right now.

Charles Davis, county agent in Calhoun County, reported that "aphids are still hanging on [in cotton] with no sign of fungus yet that I can see. They are all wearing life vests, though." He also caught this guy (at right, top) in his yard in a mud puddle; with no body of water within a half mile...it is wet! Apparently, they are a new pest in the cotton field also – watch out! A consultant from the coast sent this (at right, bottom)!



### **News from the Piedmont/Upstate**

Chris Talley, county agent in Anderson County reported that he has been seeing kudzu bugs on beans for some time now and is "just now really starting to see some immatures on some of the earlier planted beans."

### **Cotton Situation**

As of 8 July 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at about 17% squaring, compared with 59% this time last year and the 5-yr average of 56%. About 1% of bolls are set, a little behind where we were this time last year at 9% and the 5-yr average of 11%. Conditions for the cotton crop were described as 1% very poor, 7% poor, 31% fair, 59% good, and 2% excellent. Soil moisture conditions as a whole for the state were described as 0% very short, 0% short, 29% adequate, and 71% surplus, indicating that the soils are saturated. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

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### Soybean Situation

As of 8 July 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the soybean crop at 92% planted, just behind where we were last year at 98% and the 5-yr average of 98% planted. About 81% of the soybean crop has emerged, well behind where we were last year at 95% and the 5-yr average of 91%. About 1% of the soybean crop has bloomed, compared with 7% this time last year and 6% for the 5-yr average. Conditions for the soybean crop were described as 1% very poor, 7% poor, 41% fair, 47% good, and 4% excellent. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

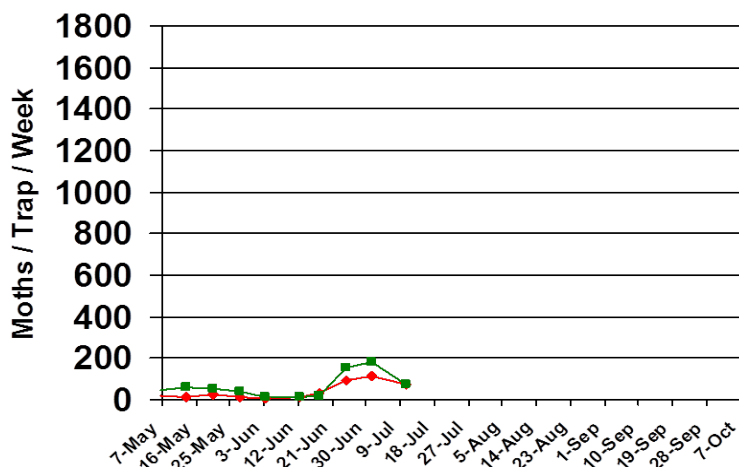
### Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



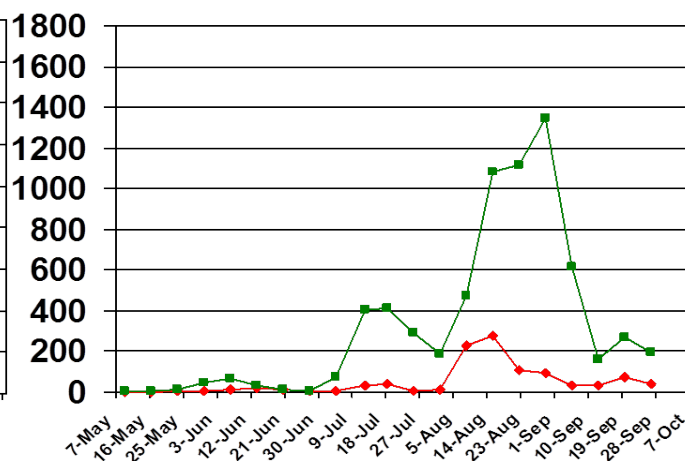
Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2012 for reference. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2013**

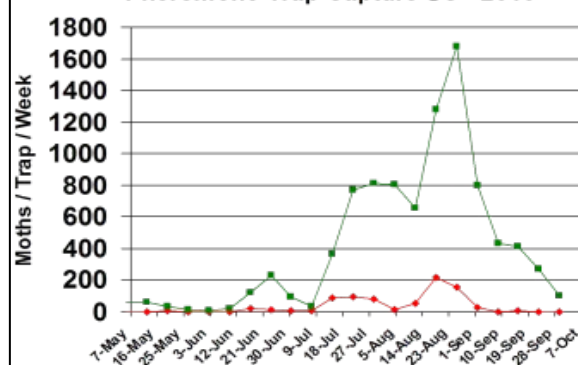


**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2012**



The trap numbers for this season are looking like what we experienced in 2010, when we had tremendous pressure from bollworm. This season might shape up to look like that record year for bollworm pressure. The next peak in numbers should tell us. If it gets to the 800 moths/trap/wk mark near the end of this month, we will know. I am betting that we will have significant pressure from bollworm in both cotton and soybeans, and that tobacco budworms will be important in soybean acres this season.

**Pheromone Trap Capture SC - 2010**



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### **Soybean Insects**

While it is easy to focus on kudzu bugs in soybean because they can get so numerous quickly, we should not forget about the other insects that can be present and cause problems. Look for moths, and identify what is coming your way in terms of caterpillar pests. Also, I easily found threecornered alfalfaoppers in one field this week (immature at right).



Keep checking fields for kudzu bugs. Consult our online flip guide for recommendations on managing kudzu bugs:

<http://digital.turn-page.com/i/87846>

The latest distribution for the kudzu bug in the southeastern USA can be viewed at the link below. **The species is now confirmed well up the East Coast and across the Mississippi River. Soon, we will probably hear on the world news about a famous house with white trim being covered with the species – The White House! I bet that happens.** Anytime you want to check the map, click the link below, and you will be taken to the updated map:

<http://maps.bugwood.org/eddmascustomcounty2.cfm?map=5&legend=bottom&height=600&width=550>

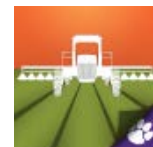
### **Pest Management Handbook - 2013**

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2013 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

### **Sprayer Calibration Mobile App**

Download our free mobile app called “Calibrate My Sprayer” that helps check for proper calibration of spraying equipment (available in both iOS and Android formats):

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mobile-apps/>



### **Need More Information?**

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

[http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest\\_management/newsletters/index.html](http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html)

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Professor – Entomologist



Visit our website at:  
<http://www.clemson.edu>

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